

Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
Basic Instrument for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
(CCAMLR)

Basic Instrument

Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, 1982

Implementing Legislation

Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 2431 *et seq.*)

Member Nations/Acceding States

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, People's Republic of China, European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Bulgaria, Canada, Cook Islands, Finland, Greece, Mauritius, Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Vanuatu have acceded to the Convention, but are not Members of the Commission.

Commission Headquarters

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
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Budget

The Commission adopted a budget for 2014 of AU\$4,713,500 (approximately US\$4,222,700 which is an increase of about one percent over the 2013 budget). The U.S. contribution for its dues in 2013 is AU\$125,083 (US\$112,060).

U.S. Representation**A. Appointment Process:**

The Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Science Foundation, appoints an officer or employee of the United States as the U.S. representative to the Commission. The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the National Science Foundation, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, designates the U.S. representative to the Scientific Committee.

B. U.S. Representative to the Commission:

Evan Bloom
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U.S. Representative to the Scientific Committee:

Dr. George Watters
Director, Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division
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8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
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C. Advisory Structure:

The U.S. Commissioner receives advice from the members of the U.S. delegation. The delegation includes representatives from the Department of State, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, Marine Mammal Commission, and the NGO community. Industry representatives have also served on the U.S. delegation.

Description

A. Mission/Purpose:

The 1982 Convention established CCAMLR for the purpose of protecting and conserving the marine living resources in the waters surrounding Antarctica. The Convention is based upon an ecosystem approach to the conservation of marine living resources and incorporates standards designed to ensure the conservation of populations and the Antarctic marine ecosystem as a whole.

The Convention applies to the Antarctic marine living resources of the area south of 60° South latitude and to the Antarctic marine living resources of the area between that latitude and the Antarctic Convergence which form part of the Antarctic marine ecosystem. The Antarctic Convergence is deemed to be a line joining the following points along parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude: 50°S, 0°; 50°S, 30°E; 45°S, 30°E; 45°S, 80°E; 55°S, 80°E; 55°S, 150°E; 60°S, 150°E; 60°S, 50°W; 50°S, 50°W; 50°S, 0°.

B. Organizational Structure:

The components of CCAMLR are the Commission, Scientific Committee, and the Secretariat. The Commission consists of one representative from each member nation. It is responsible for facilitating research and compiling data on the populations of Antarctic marine living resources, ensuring the acquisition of catch and effort data, publishing information, identifying conservation needs, adopting and revising conservation measures, and implementing a system of observation and inspection. The Secretariat, headed by an Executive Secretary, handles the administrative matters for the Commission.

The Commission has two standing committees, the Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC) and the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF). SCIC reviews and assesses the implementation of, and compliance with, CCAMLR's conservation measures and reviews information on IUU fishing. SCAF provides advice related to the budget and secretariat operations.

The Scientific Committee is composed of scientific advisors from the member nations. It provides the best available scientific information on harvesting levels and other management issues to the Commission. The work of the Scientific Committee is carried out with the assistance of the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA); the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM); the Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF); the Subgroup on Acoustics, Survey and Analysis Methods (SG-ASAM); the Working Group on Statistics, Assessments and Modeling (WG-SAM); and the ad hoc Technical Group for At-Sea Operations (TASO).

C. Conservation and Management Measures:

The Commission adopted its first conservation and management measures during its 1984 session (CCAMLR III). During the thirty-second (2013) meeting of the Commission, the requirement for vessels licensed to fish in the Convention Area to have International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers was expanded from toothfish vessels only to all vessels. After nearly 10

years of work on the development of a CCAMLR compliance evaluation procedure (CCEP) to assess Member compliance with conservation measures, the Commission adopted a procedure in 2012 to give the Secretariat a formal mechanism to capture and record information on the implementation of conservation measures by Members. 2013 was the first year of implementing the CCEP. On the basis of the information provided by the Secretariat and the relevant Member, the Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC) made determinations on compliance status and recommendations to the Commission with respect to follow-on action that might be needed to address noncompliance. The CCEP was widely considered a success in identifying instances of non-compliance and in having Members acknowledge their vessels' non-compliance and provide explanations of domestic actions they had taken or were going to take to address it. It was also useful in identifying which CCAMLR conservation measures were unclear or needed amendment to improve the ability of the Secretariat to evaluate compliance. Several conservation measures were amended at this meeting in response to issues identified through the CCEP.

Catch limits for toothfish were reviewed and in some areas revised. The Commission agreed to develop a process for conducting independent reviews of CCAMLR stock assessments and, in 2014, will consider a proposal from the United Kingdom to facilitate such reviews. The Commission retained the current catch limits in all krill fisheries. The Commission endorsed a work plan to develop a feedback management strategy for the krill fishery in the Atlantic Sector. Feedback management is a strategy for regularly revising catch limits and the geographic distribution of fishing on the basis of monitoring results that indicate the status of the krill stock, the performance of krill-dependent predators such as seals and penguins, and the performance of the fishery.

Proposals for establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) were given high priority. However, for the third time, Members could not reach agreement on the United States and New Zealand's joint proposal to establish a MPA in the Ross Sea Region and the proposal from Australia, France, and EU to establish a representative system of MPAs in East Antarctica.

The United States tabled a proposal to amend the existing conservation measure to require landing of sharks with fins naturally attached to discourage the finning (i.e., removal of the fins and discard of the carcass at sea) of incidentally-caught sharks that are retained and to improve the data collected on sharks that are caught. Many members spoke in support of the proposal but consensus on the change could not be reached.

D. Activities and Meetings

The following meetings will take place in 2014:

Subgroup on Acoustic Survey and Analysis Methods (SG-ASAM) 8 to 11 April in Qingdao, China;
 Working Group on Statistics, Assessments and Modeling (WG-SAM) 30 June to 4 July in Punta Arenas, Chile;
 Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM) 7 to 18 July in Punta Arenas, Chile;
 Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA) 6 to 17 October in Hobart, Australia;
 Scientific Committee (SC) 20 to 31 October, 2014 in Hobart, Australia; and
 Commission (CCAMLR) 20 to 31 October 2014 in Hobart, Australia.

Staff Contacts

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